

Bush, Hans E. LTC

From: carol.darby.jones [REDACTED]
Jent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 2:46 PM
To: bush [REDACTED]
Cc: sokalskw [REDACTED]; inman [REDACTED]
Subject: Request from White House Speechwriter

Sir:

The first call was from Sec'y Rumsfeld's speechwriter, Heddie Henderson.

Just received a call from Mr. John Currin, WH speechwriter. He read a statement that pretty much said that CPL Tillman joined the Army in the aftermath of 9.11 and asked if I could confirm that was his reasons for signing up. I replied that I have never spoken directly to either Ranger and I could not confirm that statement. Kevin is faxing, to Mr. Currin, several news articles I have with me that indicate that CPL Tillman did not reveal his specific reasons for his decision to a close friend and coach. Even his father has not publicly said why Pat or Kevin made their decisions.

Mr. Currin said the information is for the President's speech at the Correspondent's dinner this coming Saturday. It will probably be televised by CSPAN.

Carol
Carol P. Darby
Media and Community Relations Division Chief
U.S. Army Special Operations Command
SCAMPI [REDACTED] /DSN [REDACTED] STE [REDACTED]
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FM TASK FORCE

TO RUCAACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CDR//

INFO RUQCSAS/USSOCOM FT MACDILL AFB FL//CDR//

RUEHNE/CDRUSASOC FT BRAGG NC//CDR//

RUEPVB/TASK FORCE

BT

PERSONAL FOR CDR USCENTCOM CDR

USSOCOM CDR USASOC

DELIVER DURING NORMAL DUTY HOURS

DO NOT TRANSMIT VIA OPINTEL BROADCAST

OPFR/OEF//

MSGID/GENADMIN/TASK FORCE

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SUBJ/P4 CONCERNING INFORMATION ON CORPORAL TILLMAN'S DEATH//

RMKS/SIR, IN THE AFTERMATH OF CORPORAL PATRICK TILLMAN'S UNTIMELY YET HEROIC DEATH IN AFGHANISTAN ON 22 APRIL 04, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A 15-6 INVESTIGATION NEARING COMPLETION WILL FIND THAT IT IS HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT CORPORAL TILLMAN WAS KILLED BY FRIENDLY FIRE. THIS POTENTIAL FINDING IS EXACERBATED BY THE UNCONFIRMED BUT SUSPECTED REPORTS THAT POTUS AND THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MIGHT INCLUDE COMMENTS ABOUT CORPORAL TILLMAN'S HEROISM AND HIS APPROVED SILVER STAR MEDAL IN SPEECHES CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED, NOT KNOWING THE SPECIFICS SURROUNDING HIS DEATH.

THE POTENTIAL THAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED BY FRIENDLY FIRE IN NO WAY DETRACTS FROM HIS WITNESSED HEROISM OR THE RECOMMENDED PERSONAL DECORATION FOR VALOR IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY. CORPORAL TILLMAN WAS KILLED IN A COMPLICATED BATTLESPACE GEOMETRY INVOLVING TWO SEPARATE RANGER VEHICLE SERIALS TRAVERSING THROUGH SEVERE TERRAIN ALONG A WINDING 500-600 FOOT DEFILE IN WHICH FRIENDLY FORCES WERE FIRED UPON BY MULTIPLE ENEMY POSITIONS. CORPORAL TILLMAN DISEMBARKED FROM HIS VEHICLE, AND IN SUPPORT OF HIS FELLOW RANGERS AND DEMONSTRATING GREAT CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE OVER CARE FOR HIS OWN SAFETY ENTERED THE ENEMY KILL-ZONE INTO WHICH BOTH ENEMY AND FRIENDLY FIRE IMPACTED. I FELT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS WE DETECTED IT IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE ANY UNKNOWING STATEMENTS BY OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF CORPORAL TILLMAN'S DEATH BECAME PUBLIC.//

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CLASSIFIED BY:

REASON

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CLASSIFICATION:

CAVEATS:

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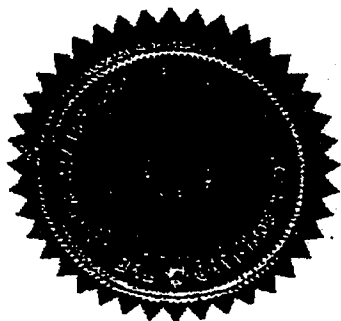
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The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 9 July 1918 (amended by act of 25 July 1963), has awarded the SILVER STAR to

CORPORAL PATRICK D. TILLMAN
UNITED STATES ARMY

for gallantry in action on 22 April 2004 against an armed enemy while serving as a Rifle Team Leader in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Corporal Tillman put himself in the line of devastating enemy fire as he maneuvered his Fire Team to a covered position from which they could effectively employ their weapons on known enemy positions. While mortally wounded, his audacious leadership and courageous example under fire inspired his men to fight with great risk to their own personal safety, resulting in the enemy's withdrawal and his ~~platoon's~~ safe passage from the ambush kill zone. Corporal Tillman's personal courage, tactical expertise, and professional competence directly contributed to this ~~platoon's~~ overall success and survival. Through his distinctive accomplishments, Corporal Tillman reflected great credit upon himself, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the United States Army.





VALOROUS AWARD WITNESS STATEMENT

I, PFC O'Neal, a 203 gunner for Second squad, Second platoon, Alpha Company, witnessed the following acts performed by CPL Tillman during the evening of the 22nd of April 2004.

Second platoon was assigned the task of moving to a village to look through and search out any links to terrorist activities. While in route to this objective we split into two serials and the second serial came under attack. CPL Tillman and I moved out to a ridge and engage the enemy so our comrades would be able to move safely from the kill zone. CPL Tillman moved us into a position where we would be safe from enemy rounds, he placed me in the safest possible position and took a less safe position for himself. We started to engage the enemy very successfully when the enemy moved most of there attention to our position, and we drew a lot of fire from them. CPL Tillman moved from his position to drop a smoke grenade to signal our troops of our position and to give me some extra cover when he was hit and killed. CPL Tillman saved my life by drawing most of the fire from my position to his and in return I survived and he was killed. I have no doubt in my mind that the only reason that I am alive to write this statement is because CPL Tillman saved my life.

//original signed//

BRADEN S. O'NEAL
PFC US ARMY
M203 Gunner

